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## **Banff Principles on Graduate Education\***

Graduate education, involving both masters and doctoral programs, is the key to creating a knowledge-based economy. While graduate education is in transition globally, the Banff Summit is an important step towards establishing inclusive, international collaborative action to support and strengthen graduate education through the sharing of best practices.

As a result of our deliberations, we offer nine principles to guide our future collective and collaborative work to advance and improve graduate education.

- Respect and learn from the differences in programs and their modes of delivery directed towards our common goal
- Promote the quality of graduate programs
- Develop global career competencies and awareness in graduates
- Encourage innovation in programs and graduates
- Clarify and strengthen the role of the masters degree
- Promote high-quality inter-university collaborative programs across national boundaries
- Review and understand the global flow of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows (early stage researchers)
- Engage stakeholders, e.g. employers, policy makers and universities, to improve and advance graduate education in a global context
- Establish an inclusive global platform for discussion of best practices in graduate education

**Agreed to on 1 September 2007 by:**

**Council of Graduate Schools  
European University Association  
Canadian Association for Graduate Studies  
Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies (Australia)  
The Association of Chinese Graduate Schools**

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\* The Strategic Leaders Global Summit on Graduate Education, convened by the Council of Graduate Schools in Banff, Canada on August 31, 2007 with representatives from the Australia, Canada, China, Europe, and the U.S. launched a global conversation about best practices in graduate education. These Banff Principles represent the key points of agreement, providing the foundation for an ongoing dialogue.